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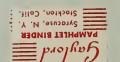
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ORBITAL TRANSFER WITH MINIMUM FUEL.

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# UNITED STATES NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL



ORBITAL TRANSFER WITH MINIMUM FUEL

by

W. E. Bleick and F. D. Faulkner
//
Professors of Mathematics and Mechanics

RESEARCH PAPER NO. 40

September 1963

# ORBITAL TRANSFER WITH MINIMUM FUEL

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# Orbital Transfer with Minimum Fuel W. E. BLEICK and F. D. FAULKNER\*

U. S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif.

A note in this Journal, Ref. 1, discussed the problem of scheduling the direction p of constant momentum thrust of a rocket, which loses mass at a constant rate, so that it transfers to a known earth satel—lite orbit in minimum time T after launching. A numerical solution was obtained, using rectangular coordinates, for the case of fixed launching conditions. The method of Ref. 1 is extended here to solve the problem of orbital transfer of such a rocket with minimum fuel consumption. All of the symbols, units, and end conditions of Ref. 1 are used here without redefinition.

#### Statement of the Problem

The time of flight T in minimum fuel transfer must be longer than in the minimum time transfer of Ref. 1, unless these two trajectories turn out to be identical. This implies at least one interruption in rocket thrust during minimum fuel transfer. The problem solved here assumes exactly one such interruption, i.e. launch at t=0, thrust interruption at t= $\mathbf{t}_1$ , thrust resumption at t= $\mathbf{t}_2$ , and final thrust termination at transfer t=T. The problem of minimum fuel transfer is equivalent to the Lagrange calculus of variations problem of requiring the integral

 $J = \int_0^T (f + \lambda \varphi_1 + \mu \varphi_2 + \pi \varphi_3 + \dot{\rho} \varphi_4) dt$  (1)

to be stationary, where f is the fuel consumption rate,  $\lambda, \mu, \pi, \rho$  are continua of Lagrangian multipliers, and  $\phi_1 = \phi_2 = \phi_3 = \phi_4 = 0$  are the first order equations of rocket motion of Ref. 1. The f function and the

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rocket thrust per unit remaining mass function a are defined as follows: For  $0 < t < t_1$ , f=1 and  $a = c\dot{M}/(1 - \dot{M}t)g$ . For  $t_1 < t < t_2$ , f=0 and a=0. For  $t_2 < t < T$ , f=1 and  $a = c\dot{M}/[1 - \dot{M}(t + t_1 - t_2)]g$ . Note that for  $t_2 < t < T$   $\partial a/\partial t_1 = -\partial a/\partial t_2 = ga^2/c$ . The varied time subinterval end points in Eq.(1) are taken as  $t_1 + \Delta t_1$ ,  $t_2 + \Delta t_2$  and  $T + \Delta T$ . The vanishing first variation  $\delta J$  and its partial integration are computed as in Ref. 1. The coefficients of  $\delta u, \delta v, \delta x, \delta y, \delta p$  in  $\delta J = 0$  give the Euler Eqs.(2) and (3), consisting of the adjoint equations

$$\dot{\lambda}_{+\pi=0}$$
,  $\dot{\mu}_{+\rho=0}$ ,  $\dot{\mu}_{+\rho=0}$ ,  $\dot{\mu}_{+g_{1y}}^{\lambda}_{+g_{2y}}^{\mu=0}$ , (2)

and the control equation

$$tan p = \mu/\lambda . (3)$$

The coefficient of  $\Delta T$  in  $\delta J=0$  gives, with the aid of Eq.(3), the transversality condition

$$(a \cdot \Lambda)_{T} = (a \wedge)_{T} = 1 \tag{4}$$

where the adjoint vector  $\wedge = i\lambda + j\mu$ ,  $\wedge = |\wedge| = (\lambda^2 + \mu^2)^{1/2}$ , and  $a = a(i \cos p + j \sin p)$ . The coefficients of  $\Delta t_1$  and  $\Delta t_2$  in  $\delta J = 0$  give, with the aid of Eq.(4), the corner conditions

$$H(t_1) = [a \wedge]_{t_1}^T - \frac{g}{c} \int_{t_1}^T a^2 \wedge dt = 0, \quad H(t_2) = 0.$$
 (5)

Eqs.(5) are equivalent, by the definition of a, to

$$\wedge(\mathbf{t}_1) = \wedge(\mathbf{t}_2) \tag{6}$$

and, by partial integration, to

$$\int_{t_2}^{t_T} a \dot{\Lambda} dt = 0 . \tag{7}$$

# Numerical Solution

Let  $\lambda_i$ ,  $\mu_i$ ,  $\pi_i$ ,  $\rho_i$ , i=1,2,3,4, be four linearly independent solutions of the adjoint Eqs.(2) corresponding to the columns of the matrix E(t) of Ref. 1. The control angle p of Eq.(3) is defined by

$$tanp = (\mu_1 + 1\mu_2 + m\mu_3 + n\mu_4) / (\lambda_1 + 1\lambda_2 + m\lambda_3 + n\lambda_4)$$
 (8)

and its variation  $\delta p$  is obtained in terms of  $\delta 1, \delta m, \delta n$  by total differentiation as in Ref. 1. The Bliss fundamental formulas are obtained by assuming that a solution of the rocket motion equations  $\varphi_1 = \varphi_2 = \varphi_3 = \varphi_4 = 0$  has been found, corresponding to Eq.(8), which does not necessarily satisfy the terminal conditions at t=T or the corner condition Eqs.(5). Using this solution and holding T fixed, but allowing  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  to vary, find the variation of the vanishing matrix integral

 $\int_0^T [\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3, \varphi_4] E(t) dt = 0$ (9)

with the terminal constraints at t=T removed. Since the columns of E(t) satisfy the adjoint Eqs.(2), one obtains the system of Bliss formulas in the 1×4 matrix equation

$$[\delta_{\mathbf{u}}, \delta_{\mathbf{v}}, \delta_{\mathbf{x}}, \delta_{\mathbf{y}}]_{\mathbf{T}} \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{T}) + [G(\mathbf{t}_{1}) - (\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{p}} \mathbf{F})_{\mathbf{T}}] \Delta \mathbf{t}_{1}$$
$$- [G(\mathbf{t}_{2}) - (\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{p}} \mathbf{F})_{\mathbf{T}}] \Delta \mathbf{t}_{2} = [0, \delta_{1}, \delta_{m}, \delta_{n}] \mathbf{A}$$
(10)

where the matrix A has been defined in Ref. 1, and where the matrix

$$G(t) = (apF)_{t}^{T} - \frac{g}{c} \int_{t}^{T} a^{2}pFdt$$
 (11)

where the 2×4 matrix F(t) is the first two rows of E(t), and where the matrix p=[cosp,sinp]. Substitution of

 $\left[\delta u, \delta v, \delta x, \delta y\right]_T = \left[U-u, V-v, X-x, Y-y\right]_T + \left[\mathring{U}-\mathring{u},\mathring{V}-\mathring{v},\mathring{X}-\mathring{x},\mathring{Y}-\mathring{y}\right]_T \Delta T$  (12) into Eq.(10) gives four of the required six Newton-Raphson equations for the determination of  $\Delta T, \Delta t_1, \Delta t_2, \delta l, \delta m, \delta n$  on the varied trajectory. The remaining two equations attempt to satisfy the corner condition Eqs.(5) on the varied trajectory. Involved here are the differentials

$$da = \delta a + \dot{a}dt$$

$$= (\partial a/\partial t_1)\Delta t_1 + (\partial a/\partial t_2)\Delta t_2 + (ga^2/c)dt$$
(13)

and  $d\Lambda = \delta\Lambda + \dot{\Lambda}dt$ 

$$= [0,\delta 1,\delta m,\delta n]F^*p^* + (\hat{\lambda}cosp+\hat{\mu}sinp)dt$$
(14)

where the primes on F and p indicate matrix transposition. Use of Eqs.(6) and (14) yields the Newton-Raphson equation

$$\dot{\Lambda}(t_1)\Delta t_1 - \dot{\Lambda}(t_2)\Delta t_2 - [0,\delta_1,\delta_m,\delta_n][F'p']_{t_1}^{t_2} = \Lambda(t_2) - \Lambda(t_1) . \tag{15}$$

Use of Eqs. (13) and (14), and the first of Eqs. (5), yields the Newton-Raphson equation

$$(\mathbf{a}\dot{\wedge})_{\mathbf{T}}\Delta\mathbf{T} + (\mathbf{K}-\mathbf{a}\dot{\wedge})_{\mathbf{t}_{1}}\Delta\mathbf{t}_{1} - \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{t}_{2})\Delta\mathbf{t}_{2} + [0,\delta_{1},\delta_{m},\delta_{n}]G^{*}(\mathbf{t}_{1}) = -\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{t}_{1})$$
 where

$$K(t) = \frac{R}{c} \left[a^2 \wedge\right]_t^T - 2\left(\frac{R}{c}\right)^2 \int_t^T a^3 \wedge dt . \qquad (17)$$

The iteration to successive varied trajectories, using Eqs.(10), (12), (15) and (16), may be carried out as in Ref. 1. Two devices were used to stabilize the course of the iteration. The first was to adjust the m and n values of the new T,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ ,  $t_3$ ,  $t_4$ 

The numerical example of minimum fuel transfer given here involves the same launching conditions, mass loss parameters and circular orbit used in the minimum time transfer of Ref. 1. The results for minimum fuel transfer are T=0.353977, t<sub>1</sub>=0.210293, t<sub>2</sub>=0.275349, 1=-0.820196, m=-0.708727, n=-1.181390, and the transfer sector angle B=0.189345 rad. Since the minimum time trajectory of Ref. 1 gave T=0.289869, the net fuel saving in minimum fuel transfer over minimum time transfer is measured by 0.289869-0.353977+t<sub>2</sub>-t<sub>1</sub> = 0.000948, or an unspectacular one-third per cent. Figure 1 shows the trajectories and thrust directions for minimum time and minimum fuel transfer.

The semilogarithmic plots of Fig. 2 show the different behavior of versus time in the two problems. For some reason there is much more difference than we expect. The curve increases monotonically for minimum time transfer. The curve for minimum fuel shows a rather char-

of the first office of the state of the stat

acteristic shape. It is large initially and decreasing; then it increases, and then decreases. If the final decreasing interval does not occur, larger values of T lead to lower values of fuel consumption, as may be partially inferred from Eq. (7).

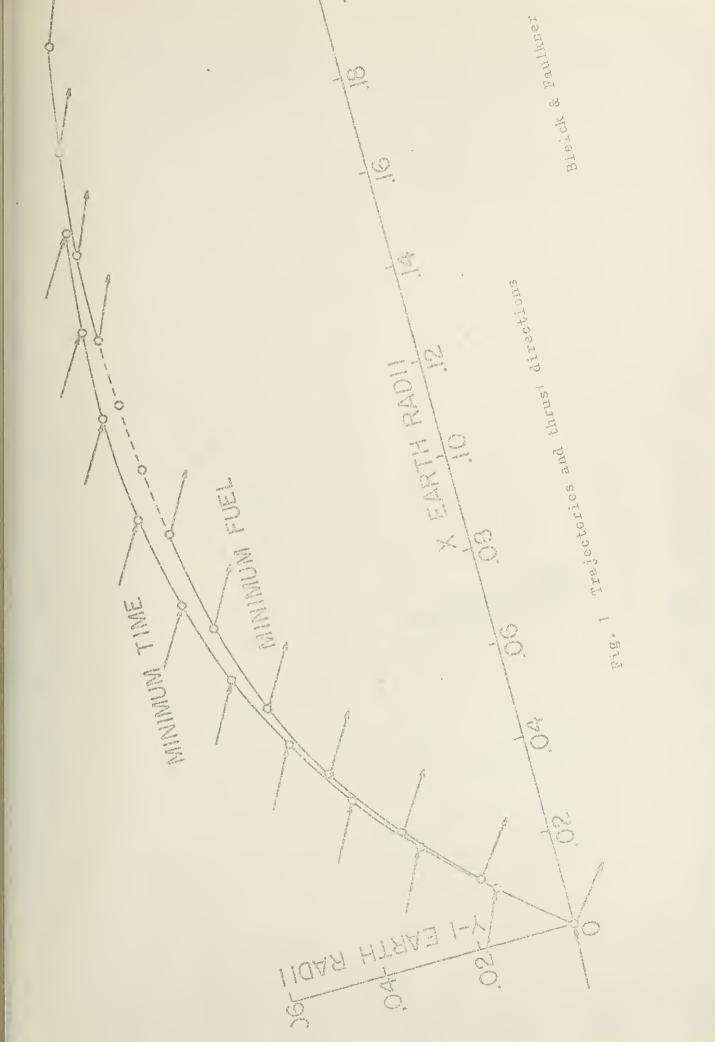
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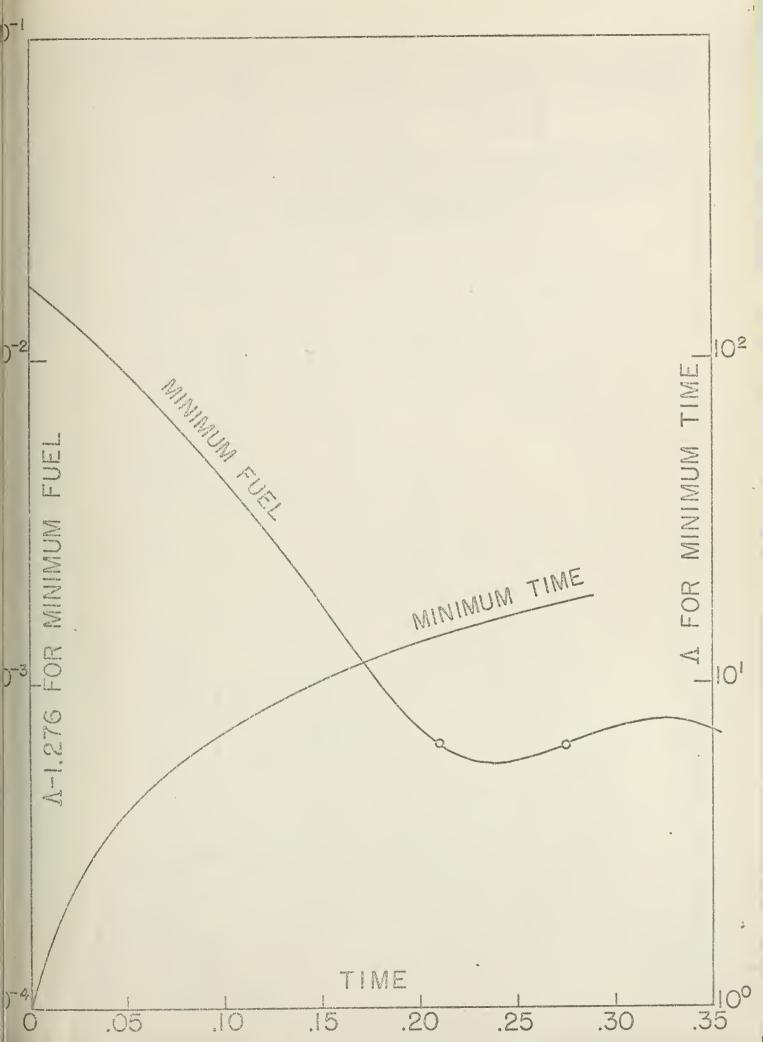
Bleick, W. E., "Orbital transfer in minimum time," AIAA Journal 1, 1229-1231 (1963).

# Figures

Fig. 1 Trajectories and thrust directions

Fig. 2 ^ versus time





```
PROGRAM MINFUEL

(1) = XU YVRS/

(2) = XV

(3) = XY
 ..JOR*BL
CYVARS
C
C
C
CYVARS
C
C
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          10123456789
           2222222222233333
                         VSQDR
TFIN
XSTEP
XU(1)
XV(1)
XX(1)
                         XV(1
XV(1
XX(1
XY(1
                 8 XY(1) = 0.0

9 TAU(1) = 0.0

1 A2LAM(1) = 0.0

C(1) = 0.0

C(2) = 0.5

C(3) = 0.5

C(4) = 1.0

KK = C

DO 271

XVAP
                      C(3) = 0.5

C(4) = 1.0

KK = C

D0 271 L=1,3

XVAR = 0.0

YVARS(1) = XU(1)

YVARS(2) = XX(1)

YVARS(3) = XX(1)

YVARS(4) = XY(1)

CAPLAM(1) = SQRTF(1.0 + EL*EL)

P(1) = 57.2957 * ATANF(EL)

XA = COVERG * OMEGA

CGALAM(1) = COVERG * XA * CAPI

D0 46 I=6,35

YVARS(I) = 0.0

D0 48 I=5,20,5

YVARS(I) = 1.0

N1 = T1/XSTEP + 1.0

XN1 = N1

STEP1 = T1/XN1

N2 = (T2-T1)/XSTEP + 1.0

XN2 = N2

STEP2 = (T2-T1)/XSTEP + 1.0

XN3 = N3

STEP3 = (T-T2)/XN3

N3 = (T-T2)/XSTEP + 1.0

XN3 = N3

STEP3 = (T-T2)/XN3

N3 = CUSF(BB)

CAPV(2) = -V * SINB

CAPV(2) = R * SINB

CAPV(4) = R * COSB
                                                       L=1,3
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          44445555555555556666666666777777777
            367
389
           40
           4 1
       4253
                                                                                                                         XA * CAPLAM(1)
           45
           4647
           4
           48
           555554
           60
            61
                        CAPV(1)
CAPV(2)
CAPV(3)
CAPV(4)
           62
                                                                = V * CDSB
= -V * SINB
= R * SINB
= R * COSB
= -VSQDR *
= -VSQDR *
           65
                                                              ****
                                                                                                                     SINB
```

78

CAPVD(2)

```
CAPYD[2] = CAPY[2]
CAPYD[4] = CAPY[4]
CAPYD[4] = CAPYD[4]
CAPYD[4]
CAPYD[4] = CAPYD[4]
C
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     7888888888889999999991111111
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154
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158
159
             GO TO 165
P(K) = 0.0
GO TO 165
 160
 161
162
163
 164
   65
 166
167
168
169
1712345
17745
1776
1778
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 185
 186
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  90
  92
   94
195
196
197
   98
B(I) = C.O

DO 224 J=1,4

A(I,1) = A(I,1) + YVARS(4*I+J)*(DY(J)-CAPVD(J))

B(I) = B(I) + YVARS(4*I+J)*(CAPV(J)-YVARS(J))

DO 227 I=1,4

A(I,2) = AT1*CIT1(I) + (QCIA2T(I)-QCIA2T2(I))/COVERG

A(I,3) =-AT1*CIT2(I) - (QCIA2T(I)-QCIA2T2(I))/COVERG

DO 23C J=2,4

AA(1,J)= YVARS(19+J)

AA(2,J)= YVARS(22+J)

AA(3,3)= YVARS(22+J)

AA(3,4)= YVARS(28)

AA(4,4)= YVARS(29)

DO 23c I=1,4
```

- 8 -

```
300
301
302
320
                    263.99
263991
```

```
1 A2LAM(I),P(I), I=1,N4)
FORMAT (8F13.9, F13.2)
SIOP 280
END
SUBROLTINE GAUSS3 (N,EP,A,X,KER)
DIMENSION A(6,6), X(6,6)
CO 1 I=1,N
CO 1 J=1,N
X(I,J)=C.0
CO 2 K=1,N
X(K,K)=1.0
DO 34 L=1,N
KP=0
Z=0.0
DO 12 K=L,N
IF(Z-ABSF(A(K,L))))11,12,12
Z=ABSF(A(K,L))
KP=K
CONTINUE
IF(L-KP)13,20,20
DO 14 J=L,N
Z=A(L,J)
A(L,L)=A(KP,J)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          290
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00190
                                   IF(L-KP) 13,20,20

CC 14 J=L,N

Z=A(L,J)
A(L,J)=A(KP,J)
A(KP,J)=Z
CO 15 J=1,N

Z=X(L,J)
X(L,J)=X(KP,J)
X(KP,J)=Z
IF(ABSF(A(L,L))-EP)50,50,30
IF(L-N)31,34,34
LP1=L+1
CO 36 K=LP1,N
IF(A(K,L))32,36,32
RATIO=A(K,L)/A(L,L)
DO 33 J=LP1,N
A(K,J)=A(K,J)-RATIO*A(L,J)
DO 35 J=1,N
X(K,J)=X(K,J)-RATIC*X(L,J)
CGNTINUE
CONTINUE
CO
       13
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          14
     20 30 31
       32
   33
     35
     34
                                     DO 43 J=1, N

S=0.0

IF(II-N)41,43,43

IIP1=II+1

DO 42 K=IIP1,N

S=S+A(II,K)*X(K,J)

X(II,J)=(X(II,J)-S)/A(II,II)

KER=1

RETURN

KER=2

END

END
     42
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